Government has not received any specific intimation from any State Government showing reluctance for implementation of the said syllabus in the name of saffronisation of education.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

School Education—a profitable enterprise

4399. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have noticed the trend among the middle-class/ lower middle-class families of investing in education of their children as a priority;

(b) whether any scientific study has been conducted into this trend especially with a view to facilitate creation of necessary infrastructure towards fulfiling such mass aspiration about children;

(c) if so, salient findings of the study, and if not, the reasons therefor ;

(d) whether this trend have fuelled mushrooming of "convent" schools solely to fleece the parents even though providing education of indifferent quality to their children; and

(e) whether school education be continued to be allowed as profitable enterprise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (e) Though no scientific study has been got conducted, there is a perceptible demand for education. Free and compulsory education for children between the age of 6 and 14 years has since been enshrined as a Fundamental Right in our Constitution. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has been launched to provide quality education for 8 years to the children between the aforesaid age group.

The National Policy on Education (NPE) while encouraging non-governmental and voluntary efforts including social activist groups in the filed of education, calls for steps to prevent commercialisation of education.